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Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 4:59 AM
Subject: City Council Hearing Testimony

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

Aloha,

I am writing this email in opposition to Bill 11. I understand why this bill is being submitted, but believe its scope is too broad and affects businesses that are vital to our community.

I am a member of the Stroller Strides Mom's exercise group that meets in Kailua Beach Park. I am also a military wife who has moved several times and had to adapt to many different cultures and communities. I joined Stroller Strides two days after I moved into my home in Kailua, and because of this group this move has been the easiest I've ever had. The members of Stroller Strides are more than people I work out with, they are my ohana. I can't even put into words how much this means when you are thousands of miles away from your family, and your husband is gone most of the time to places where you have to worry about whether he will make it home. Having a mom's support group like this has made such a difference in so many of our lives.

Our group does a lot more than just exercise. We babysit each other's children, we provide meals when someone is sick, has a baby or suffers the loss of a loved one, and most importantly we give back to the community. Last year, we raised thousands of dollars for the American Cancer Society by participating in the Relay for Life. We donated bags of clothing to the Salvation Army after hosting a clothing exchange. We collected boxes of food for the Hawaii Food Bank. Each month we have dinner at a different Kailua restaurant bringing in hundreds of dollars of business. We support other local businesses, such as Kalapawai Market, Baby Showers Hawaii, Little Sprouts, Book Ends, etc. We aren't just a bunch of moms running around the park. We are active participants in this community and are much happier because we start our day with Stroller Strides.

Bill 11 would eliminate this group that has helped us maintain both physical and mental well being. Our children are also learning a valuable lesson by taking part in our exercise class. They are learning how crucial physical activity is to living a healthy life. With childhood obesity such a problem both here in Hawaii and in the U.S. as a whole, we are doing our part to prevent it. If you look at Stroller Strides the business, you can only find positive results from its existence.

Why would you want to put it out of business when it is such an integral part of so many lives? I ask you to look closely at this bill and the many negative effects it will have on Kailua because those seem to outweigh the positive by far.

Mahalo,
Kristie Carpenter